

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OCT. 13 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WASHINGTON POST NOTED OCT. 13 THAT "ADMINISTRATION STRATEGISTS HAVE ANTICIPATED FOR MONTHS THAT THEY WERE BOUND TO ENCOUNTER STRONG DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO ANY SALT COMPROMISE WITH SOVIET UNION. BUT THERE IS UNCERTAINTY AT THIS STAGE WHETHER MAJOR CONFRONTATION IS NEAR OR WHETHER CRITICS WILL HOLD THEIR FIRE UNTIL NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS ARE FURTHER ADVANCED." POST REPORTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE ON THURSDAY WILL GIVE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AN EXPLANATION OF NEW US.-USSR NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL COMPROMISE BEFORE FACING "MORE CRITICAL SENATE AUDIENCE FRIDAY." POST SAID SFRC, HEADED BY SENATOR SPARKMAN, "IS BASICALLY 'DOVISH' AND FRIENDLY TO AMERICAN-SOVIET COMPROMISES. STERNER TEST FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS IS MORE 'HAWKISH' SENATE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROL HEADED BY SENATOR JACKSON." POST POINTED OUT BOTH SENATE GROUPS ASKED FOR VANCE'S TESTIMONY IN CLOSED HEARINGS THIS WEEK AND SCHEDULING THAT WAS WORKED OUT BRINGS SECRETARY BEFORE MILDER FORUM FIRST. "IT IS JACKSON SUBCOMMITTEE, HOWEVER, WHICH STARTS HEARINGS FRIDAY, THAT WILL DETERMINE HOW MUCH CRITICISM ADMINISTRATION WILL ENCOUNTER AS IT PROCEEDS WITH U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION

TALKS IN GENEVA." POST SAID ADMINISTRATION HOPED TO AVOID NEW CONTROVERSY ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY BREAKING OUT ON TOP OF

RUNNING DISPUTE OVER PANAMA CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION. "PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, HAS NOW THRUST INTO SAME TIME FRAME ADMINISTRATION'S DIPLOMACY ON PANAMA, SALT AND ON MIDDLE EAST, ON WHICH VANCE ALSO WILL BE REPORTING TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE," POST EXPLAINED. POST SAID PRESIDENT CARTER, "WHO TOLD U.N. LAST WEEK THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW 'ARE WITHIN SIGHT' OF NEW SALT ACCORD, "YESTERDAY APPEARED TO BE CUTTING BACK ON OPTIMISM. YESTERDAY DAY CARTER SAID THAT 'RESULTS SO FAR ARE ENCOURAGING' BUT HE WENT ON TO SAY, 'WE DON'T KNOW YET WHAT SOVIET ATTITUDE IS ON VERY IMPORTANT REMAINING DIFFERENCES.' HE SAID, 'WE HAVE NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN IRRESOLVABLE DIFFERENCES.' AND YET CARTER ALSO SAID, 'WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH PROGRESS WILL BE MADE IN FUTURE.' THIS AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE SUGGESTS THAT ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO HEAD OFF POTENTIAL CRITICS OF ITS NEGOTIATING STRATEGY WITH CONTENTION THAT JUDGMENTS ON OUTCOME ARE PREMATURE WHILE BARGAINING CONTINUES. AT SAME TIME, ADMINISTRATION IS ANXIOUS TO CONVINCE CONGRESS THAT ENOUGH PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN SALT TALKS TO JUSTIFY PURSUING THEM WITHOUT DISRUPTIVE DOMESTIC DEBATE."

2. DANIEL SOUTHERLAND, WRITING IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, UNCLASSIFIED

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TOR, QUOTED CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES AS SAYING NEW SALT AGREEMENT NOW BEING DRAFTED IN GENEVA IS LIKELY TO "ENCOUNTER FIERCE RESISTANCE IN U.S. SENATE." SOUTHERLAND REPORTED THAT "OTHER SOURCES SAY THAT EMERGING AGREEMENT, WHOSE DETAILS ARE NOW BECOMING KNOWN THROUGH 'LEAKS' TO PRESS, IS ALSO LIKELY TO AROUSE FEARS IN SOME QUARTERS OF U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND AMONG AMERICA'S EUROPEAN ALLIES. THESE ALLIES AND SOME PENTAGON OFFICIALS AND MILITARY OFFICERS ARE SAID TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT LIMITS WHICH NEW AGREEMENT MAY IMPOSE ON DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. CRUISE MISSILES."

3. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM BARI, ITALY, SAID EUROPEAN NATIONS OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, "DECLARING THAT CRUISE MISSILES ARE VITAL TO DEFENSE OF CONTINENT," EXPRESSED CONCERN TO DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS TO LIMIT RANGE OF WEAPONS IN SALT ACCORD WITH SOVIET UNION. AT SAME TIME, WEINRAUB REPORTED, BROWN AND KEY DEFENSE MINISTERS IN EUROPE "AGREED THAT SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB HAD 'MILITARY UTILITY AND DETERRENT EFFECT,' BUT THAT PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS HAD, SO FAR, THWARTED ANY DECISION TO DEPLOY CONTROVERSIAL WARHEAD IN EUROPE." WEINRAUB SAID BROWN, PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, SOUGHT TO ASSURE ALLIES THAT

U.S. WAS NOT PLACING PERMANENT LIMITATIONS ON CRUISE MISSILES. "IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER MR. BROWN'S

COMMENTS ASSURED EUROPEANS WHO SAY THAT CRUISE MISSILES WITH ONLY 350-MILE RANGES ARE AN INADEQUATE DETERRENT," TIMES CORRESPONDENT POINTED OUT. "U.S. SOURCES SAID THAT LIMITATIONS ON CRUISE MISSILE WOULD LAST ONLY THREE YEARS AND THAT RESTRICTION WOULD THEREFORE BE TEMPORARY ON MIS-SILE, WHICH HAS RANGE OF UP TO 1,500 MILES. EUROPEAN NA-TIONS FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AFTER THREE YEARS TO FREE CRUISE MISSILE FROM RESTRICTION. SO-VIET UNION HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT AGREE TO AN ARMS UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMITATION ACCORD UNLESS RESTRICTIONS ARE PLACED ON DEPLOYMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES."

4. MEANTIME, RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT "CARTER ADMINISTRATION, SURPRISED AND FRUSTRATED BY CONTINUING CONTROVERSY IN WESTERN EUROPE OVER PROPOSED U.S. DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB, HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTING WITH KEY ALLIES ON SENSITIVE NUCLEAR MATTERS. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID WHITE HOUSE AND PENTAGON WERE DISAPPOINTED OVER LACK OF OFFICIAL SUPPORT SHOWN FOR NEUTRON WEAPON BY GOVERNMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THAT, AS RESULT, ADMINISTRATION WAS INCREASING ITS EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SYSTEM TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL OFFICIALS CONCEDED THAT THESE EFFORTS TO CONSULT WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN EUROPE SHOULD HAVE BEGUN EARLIER AND THAT EPISODE WAS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING, CONSIDERING ADMINISTRATION'S EARLIER COMMITMENT TO GIVING PRIORITY TO RELATIONS WITH ALLIES." BURT SAID SOME OFFICIALS STATED THAT EFFORTS OF PENTAGON, "WHICH NORMALLY DEALS WITH ALLIED GOVERNMENTS IN FIRST INSTANCE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR STATE DEPARTMENT." BURT SAID THESE OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT STATE'S BUREAU OF POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PENTAGON'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN EARLY STAGES OF ALLIANCE NUCLEAR PLANNING.

5. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER YESTERDAY "TRIED TO HEAD OFF MOVE IN HOUSE TO REVIVE PRODUCTION OF B-ONE BOMBER." PRESIDENT, AT MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, REAFFIRMED HIS OPPOSITION TO BOMBER IN WAKE OF CONCERN EXPRESSED BY OPPONENTS OF BOMBER THAT PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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MIGHT BE WAVERING, SUN REPORTED. "SENSING POSSIBLE CHANGE OF MIND, SUPPORTERS OF BOMBER ARE ATTEMPTING TO ADD 1.4 BILLION DOLLARS TO SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET FOR FURTHER PRODUCTION. VOTE ON ISSUE, SCHEDULED FOR TODAY OR

TOMORROW, WAS DELAYED UNTIL NEXT WEEK AFTER HOUSE LEADERS

INDICATED CONCERN THAT IT APPEARED CLOSE AND MIGHT GO AGAINST PRESIDENT."

6. WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID NEW CIA STUDY STATES "MOSCOW PARLAYED ITS ARMS DEALS INTO 2.5 BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS IN 1976." THIS PUTS MOSCOW "ACTIVELY IN ARMS MERCHANT CLASS," CIA SAID. HOWEVER, THIS TOTAL IS FAR BELOW U.S. ARMS SALES, WHICH LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO 8.7 BILLION DOLLARS, JOURNAL NOTED.

7. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "IN DEALING WITH MOSCOW, AS IN SO MANY OTHER MATTERS, CARTER STARTED OFF AS THOUGH IT WERE WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.... NEW GAME PROMISED BY CARTER (AND ESPECIALLY HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI) FEATURED TOUGH STANCE TOWARD SOVIET UNION." CARTER NOW HAS REVERTED TO OLD BALL GAME, AND IN PROCESS ACHIEVED SOME DISTINCT SUCCESS. BUT HE IS NOT RECEIVING CREDIT HE DESERVES BECAUSE GAINS FALL VISIBLY SHORT OF WHAT WAS PROMISED AT OUTSET.... FOR MY OWN PART, I WELCOME STRONGLY IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA. I ALSO WELCOME ABANDONMENT OF 'NEW GAME,' WHICH ALWAYS SEEMED PHONY TO ME, AND RETURN TO 'OLD GAME' NOW FEEL THEY'VE BEEN HAD. IT IS NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT, WHICH I CONSIDER TRIUMPH ENSURING STILL FURTHER TALKS, LOOKS TO MANY AS JUST ANOTHER BAD DEAL. SO IF CARTER ADMINISTRATION WANTS APPROVAL FOR ITS FOREIGN POLICY, IT WILL HAVE TO START MATCHING ITS RHETORIC WITH REALITIES. IT WILL HAVE TO INTRODUCE ITS PHILOSOPHER, ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, TO MAN WHO IS MORE AND MORE EMERGING AS PRESIDENT'S CHIEF FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY ADVISER, CYRUS VANCE."

8. VICTOR ZORZA, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, RECALLED THAT KISSINGER WARNED THAT ANY SERIOUS DELAY IN CONSUMMATING VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD WOULD CAUSE IT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN. "HE WAS RIGHT AND BREAKTHROUGH HE HAD NEGOTIATED PROVED TO BE TO NO AVAIL. SOVIET UNION HAS NO ELECTION CAMPAIGN, BUT IT HAS SUCCESSION PROBLEM. FEW ANALYSTS GIVE BREZHNEV MORE THAN YEAR AT HELM, EVEN THOUGH DETERIORATION OF HIS HEALTH SEEMS FOR TIME BEING TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. INDEED, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESSION IS ALREADY UNDER WAY. UNLESS REMAINING SALT ISSUES ARE SPEEDILY RESOLVED, AND NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED, AGREEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER NOW BELIEVES TO BE 'WITHIN SIGHT' COULD BECOME INVOLVED WITH KREMLIN SUCCESSION STRUGGLE AND COULD COME TO NOTHING." VANCE

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